

THE DAILY TELEGRAM

The Leading Paper in Central West Virginia
Published Every Evening except Sunday
CLARKSBURG TELEGRAM COMPANY
CLARKSBURG, W. VA.

MEMBER OF ASSOCIATED PRESS
Entered as Second-Class Mail Matter
W. Va. at Second-Class Mail Matter
October 3, 1893

TERMS: Home Phone 157 Ring 2
Business Office 157 Ring 2
Mail Phone 157 Ring 2
Business Office 157 Ring 2
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Daily, per week \$1.00
Daily, per month \$2.50
Daily, per year \$25.00
Sundays, per year \$10.00
Sundays, per year \$10.00
Sundays, per year \$10.00

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30, 1908.

Paves the Way.

A timely and pointed editorial, based largely on the Gompers case of recent notoriety, which shows the value the case may bring to the government, is published by the Wheeling News, and the principle involved in the Gompers case is applied by that newspaper to the famous beef trust cases. The suggestion that the Gompers sentence paves the way for imprisonment in the beef trust cases is one of justice, although the judge in the latter cases may not take it seriously. The News editorial is as follows:

Unusual interest attaches to the latest legal assault upon the beef trust. In this case the government is able to proceed upon surer grounds than in the initial prosecution of the trust for violations of the anti-trust laws.

The complaint now is that the packers violated the injunction restraining them from combining to fix prices. This makes it a plain case of proving that they did so combine. It will not be necessary to fight every technical objection, shrewd lawyers can raise as had to be done in the complicated case against the Standard Oil Company in Judge Landis's court.

Interesting possibilities are numerous. In the first place there can be no immunity basis. In the second place, imprisonment in the penitentiary can be imposed by the judge. In the third place, being a straight out contempt case, a jury is not necessary. In the fourth place, the punishment inflicted upon Gompers et al. sets a precedent for severe penalties for violations of court orders. And lastly but not least, the judge whom the government alleges has been condemned is Grosscup of \$29,000,000 the reversal fame.

To Study Farm Management.

Beginning January 25th, the College of Agriculture of West Virginia University at Morgantown will give a week to the general subject of Farm Management. The subject will seem new to many; and yet farm management of some sort is as old as farming itself. What is new is the idea of making a systematic study of the principles that underlie successful management of every kind of business and the application of these principles to the very practical matter of managing a farm so as to make it pay its way and pay a profit besides. Such a subject deserves more study than it receives. Merchants and bankers and newspaper men might do worse than to join the farmers in studying Farm Management for a week at the College of Agriculture. Following is a list of the lecturers and their subjects:

D. W. Working: Economics and Agriculture; Agriculture and Manufacturing; Agriculture and Transportation; Agriculture and Internal Commerce; Agriculture and Foreign Trade.

T. C. Atkeson: Farm Bookkeeping; General System; Farm Accounts; Practical System; The Farm as a Source of Income; Buildings and Grounds; Fields and Fences.

Special Lectures: The Management of a Truck Farm, J. B. Garvin, Secretary State Board of Agriculture; The Management of a Fruit Farm, S. W. Moore, Vice-President State Horticultural Association; The Management of a General Farm, J. B. Huyett, of Jefferson county; The Management of a Dairy Farm, J. R. Wells, of Tyler county; The Management of a Stock Farm, Clarence Symms, of Monroe county. The afternoon conferences will further de-

velop these subjects. Lecturers are all well known to the farmers of this state and their lectures will be of great value to the farmer. The lectures will be held at the College of Agriculture, Morgantown, West Virginia.

The year will soon be gone. In Clarksburg it has not been a bad one. General business conditions have to some extent been felt, but the financial storm was scarcely noticeable here. Clarksburg has the happy faculty of going right along and prospering, when other places are paralyzed from business viewpoints. The most the city has had to contend with has been the water famine and local factory differences. Both have retarded progress to some extent, but they are both obstacles that ought to be easily overcome. The people can avert future water famines, if they but give heed and do now what they would do during such famines, and factory disturbances ought to be eliminated by some mutual understanding, which should be accomplished by mutual concessions.

The attitude of the Fairmont Coal Company toward free-trade on coal is another practical explosion of the insincerity of the Democratic position on the tariff question. It has often been observed that Democratic politicians and statesmen want everything on the free list except the products of their own immediate sections of country. If free-trade coal is not a good thing for West Virginia, there is good reason to believe that free-trade wool is not good for some other state.

Governor-elect Glasscock's repeated declarations that he intends to insist that the legislature carry out the pledges of the party ought to impress that body with the necessity of carrying out those pledges, and they show that he is in dead earnest. Mr. Glasscock's attitude is the correct one and no one who knows him doubts that he will bring strong pressure to bear to keep faith with the people.

There are some who differ from Governor-elect Glasscock on the question of county local option, but that was a part of the Republican state platform and had its bearing in the campaign. He insists that county local-option legislation should be passed, if for no other reason than that it is a party pledge, which had to do with the Republican triumph.

It is announced that the sheriff-elect hopes to take up the work where the retiring sheriff leaves it, and yet prior to this all-important announcement there was an effort to make the public believe that that work had not been well done and was not in good shape. Now, we know better.

FALSE CHARGES

(Continued from page 1)

through the direct and indirect efforts of the tax department.

The report also enumerates a few of the more important legal battles in which the department has been entangled during the last two years. Under the annual assessment of real estate, the inequalities now existing will largely disappear, says the report.

New Accounting System
In reviewing the recent legislation, Tax Commissioner White says that the uniform accounting act, in so far as possible, will be put into effect on January 1, 1909, but owing to the fiscal year conflicting in numerous instances, it is deemed inadvisable to change the method of bookkeeping until the beginning of the next fiscal year after the act goes into effect. If the results from the passage of such a law are the same in West Virginia as in other states, the tax commissioner believes it will be one of the best acts of legislation for the people that have been enacted in 25 years as the act will forever and the contracting of illegal and unwarranted debts.

Discusses Leasehold Tax.
Relative to the taxation of coal, oil and gas, the report states that West Virginia is in search of an up-to-date method for justly taxing one or more of these great products. Appended to the report is a paper read before the International Tax Conference by T. C. Townsend, chief clerk of the department and the probable successor of Mr. White, in which the author discusses favorably the production tax theory as the most feasible method of taxing coal, oil

and gas. It is a plan that has been with the department since its organization and is a plan that is being actively pushed by the department.

Denies "Slender" Charge.
My own views on the subject, he says, have been given in public addresses and official messages in times past when I have otherwise been in the service of the state. I have never committed myself to the production tax theory for taxing coal properly, provided a less objectionable method can be secured. Neither do I assent by silence to the charge that the indefensible and slanderous charge is true that the legislation providing for the taxation of leaseholds was put into the statute book. It appeared in two sessions and distinct acts, both passed while I was governor and two weeks apart, and with the full knowledge and intent of those favoring the passage of the bills. It is childish to say that the legislature did not know what it was doing in this matter. Possibly some hardheads may plead ignorance, but surely not the legal "slut" who prays upon the legislative bills and actions. Anyhow, the supreme court of West Virginia has decided that leaseholds are property subject to tax.

In concluding his remarks about the taxation of coal leaseholds, the tax commissioner says:

"Whatever the state does should be done in a spirit of absolute fairness and justice to this great industry. It is better not to act at all than to act unjustly; but to arrive at the justice of any proposition there must be a consideration of both or rather all sides, and there should be manifested a spirit of helpfulness and a desire to carry out the public burdens of the government."

Financial Needs of Office.
In reference to the support of the tax department, the report states that the appropriation for clerk hire, contingent expenses, etc., for the years 1907 and 1908 was \$14,000, and this would have been sufficient to meet the needs of the office, but for the legislature materially increasing the work of the office. The appropriation for 1909 and 1910, should be for each year \$16,000 for the tax department, and \$8,000 for the uniform system of accounting act.

Praises His Assistants.
In concluding the work Tax Commissioner White praises his faithful force of assistants and calls attention to the fidelity and efficiency of Assistant Tax Commissioner John S. Darr and the chief clerk and legal adviser, T. C. Townsend. In closing he says:

"In laying down the work of this department at the close of the present calendar year, I do so with the belief that, so far as in me laid, I have endeavored to see that the laws were faithfully, impartially and, so far as possible, efficiently administered. The movement for the reform of the tax laws began in the very commencement of my four year term as governor, in the spring of 1901, in the appointment of the tax commissioner, whose unanimous findings and report made in the fall of 1902 blazed the way for the tremendous and far reaching reforms which have been of such great value to the taxpayers of West Virginia. The year of 1903 was a year of education and of public discussion of the great reforms proposed and culminated in the summer of 1904 in the extraordinary session of the legislature, which passed the first tax reform legislation. To organize the new department of taxation it was my privilege in November of that year to name as the tax commissioner, Hon. C. W. Dillon, whose work in creating the department and in fighting the legal battles of the new system mark an epoch in our state's history. It was my further privilege in January and February, 1905, to see the legislative amendments and re-enactment of the entire system of tax reform legislation, so as to make it a more effective and beneficial piece of constructive legislation. These laws are now vindicated, by their results, to the people of the state and have been three times endorsed by their votes. The tax reform statutes, as a system, have at least earned an abiding place on our statute books."

"I deemed it an honor to succeed Mr. Dillon in April, 1907, as state tax commissioner, when called to the office by the leader of our cause, Governor Wm. M. O. Dawson, who won the fight for the people in 1904, and whose administration as governor is celebrated for all times as the era of greatest constructive and reform legislation triumphantly carried to a successful and lasting conclusion. And now at the close of the year 1908, I expect to terminate my official connection with the cause which I espoused when its future was uncertain and its establishment seemingly, at times, impossible. The friends and believers in tax reform have fought a good fight, kept the faith and now see the fruition of their hopes and efforts. It is well for the state."

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1. Bonds of the Clarksburg Light and Ice Company, dated June 1, 1907, payable to the bearer June 1, 1912, with interest at the rate of six per cent per annum, payable on the first day of June and December, each year, interest semi-annually payable at the Clarksburg Light and Ice Company, Clarksburg, West Virginia. Said bonds are Nos. 1 and 2, and the net installment of interest will be due on the 1st day of December, 1908, for three months.

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